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(Washington, DC) -- Today \$2.3 billion for crucial health and human services programs that help to provide care for children and prevent disease are being made available. Missouri will receive \$3,574,454 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, championed by Congressman Russ Carnahan (MO-3), to support child care and prevent disease for working families.

"Parents not only are struggling to find a job in many cases, but they also have to care for their children while facing the rising costs of living," said Congressman Carnahan. "It's critically important government do what it can to help care for children while their parents pursue work so that they're healthy and better prepared to compete in today's global economy."

Recovery Act funds for the Child Care and Development Fund will allow states across the country to support child care services for more families whose children require care while they are working, seeking employment or receiving job training or education.

The funds will be used to provide vouchers to families for child care or to provide access to care through contracts with child care centers or invest in quality improvements. Recovery Act dollars will support a wide range of child care providers, including child care centers and home-based programs.

"Missouri is experiencing record-high unemployment. This funding helps parents keep their current job, search for a new one or train themselves for jobs of the future," said Carnahan.

"Another form of relief we can offer is putting money into people's pockets. Tax cuts implemented last week are aimed at working people who are having trouble making ends meet."

The Section 317 program provides funding for immunization operations and infrastructure necessary to implement a comprehensive immunization program at the federal, state, and local levels.

The Making Work Pay tax credit provides a refundable tax credit of 6.2 percent of earned income up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for married taxpayers for 2009 and 2010. It also gives 2.2 million Missouri families at least a \$65 dollar per month increase in their take home pay.

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